

Dear Committee Clerk Michalak,

Please enter my opposition to SB 1280 into the hearing record at the next meeting of the Committee on September 27. As a previous recipient of MNRTF grants in Eaton County, and a current applicant, I find the proposed revisions cumbersome, confusing and possibly unconstitutional. As a voter referendum approved issue, I find many contradictions in the shift from a Trust Fund without legislative authority to avoid pork barrel interference to intrusion into one of the best managed reinvestment of natural resources in our nation.

John Greenslit, Director
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Natural Resources Committee:

Please enter my personal objections to SB 1280 into the record of the Committee. As one of the founding sponsor members of the original Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 37 years ago, I can attest that these modifications destroy the original intent of the overwhelming support of the citizenship to provide an independent process of re-investment in our great heritage of one of the nation's greatest outdoor recreation States in the nation.

As I worked side by side with Tom Washington of MUCC, Governor William Milliken and many others, Michigan became the model of progressive acquisition and development without political interference. The non-bias grant system became highly sophisticated and competitive, free of bias, and has operated with distinction and equity throughout the program.

As reform, restructure and deregulations continually surfaces in the legislative process, and introspective review by the Committee should reveal the wonderful legacy of the MNRTF. I strongly suggest that this effort be withdrawn from the calendar.

John F. Greenslit
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MNRTF Steering Committee Member

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Dear Natural Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Michigan Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (MACPRO) and the Michigan Recreation Park and Recreation Association (MRPA) as a member of their Public Policy Committees, I wanted to express my professional concern for the over-reaching language of SB 1280. While unable to attend the hearing, my personal position is to support both of these organizations in their opposition to the dismantling of the MNRTF program. Entering into the Legislative budget process is not in the best interest of any Trust, especially one that has operated so efficiently since its voter approved acceptance some 37 years ago.

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